



New England's longest and largest watercourse, the Connecticut River, is the focus of The Nature Conservancy's newest land protection campaign. A regional effort encompassing Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire, the \$10 million campaign's ambitious goal is to protect 100 critical sites within the river's watershed. The four-color insert in this issue describes the campaign in greater detail.

The Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter
55 High Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457-3788
Tel. (203) 344-0716

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COALITION FORMED TO HELP SAVE CONNECTICUT'S VANISHING LANDSCAPE

Connecticut is losing ground. Those special places which many of us have cherished, and possibly taken for granted, since our childhood years are vanishing from the landscape. While Connecticut's unprecedented period of economic growth is of great benefit to the state, it has taken its toll on the land—with 100,000 acres lost to development in the last five years alone.

Where is this leading us? Are we forever jeopardizing our quality of life and the ecological well-being of Connecticut for present and future generations?

The rapid pace of development and the seemingly endless escalation in land values is rapidly outstripping the limited public and private monies available to preserve the most precious features of our landscape. Inadequate funding is a major obstacle. From Fairfield to Windham Counties, land values have doubled since 1985. Nearly every purchase undertaken by the Connecticut Chapter in recent years involved expenditures in the six or seven figure range. We must identify new sources of funding if we are to secure those special natural lands before they are lost.

In response to these alarming trends, a group of local

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

	Nationally	In Connecticut
Total Projects	7,182	423
Total Acres Saved	2,862,807*	18,086
Acres Registered	—	3,143
Tracts Registered	2,165	96
Tradeland Tracts Received	399	27
Members	392,014	10,897
Corporate Associates	404	17

*Includes registered properties



National Office: 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209

continued from page 1

and state-wide organizations and individuals came together in November, 1987 to form the Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut. The Coalition is launching the state's most ambitious legislative land campaign ever to provide adequate and steady sources of funding for local and state-wide land conservation efforts.

The Coalition believes that only an aggressive program of private, State, and local land acquisition activities can save those special places and assure that the citizens of Connecticut will continue to enjoy the many benefits of land conservation into the 21st century.

The key elements of the Land Coalition's legislative effort are the following:

- **Create a five-year, \$25 million annual bond authorization to provide a predictable source of funding for the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program.** A \$25 million annual bonding commitment would allow the State to acquire important ecological and recreational lands at a rate approaching 5,000 acres each year. Under the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, the State may purchase property in cooperation with municipalities and non-profit organizations. In the past year, The Nature Conservancy has worked with the State under this program to save Cedar Island, Devil's Ridge and the Bear Hill Wildlife Refuge.

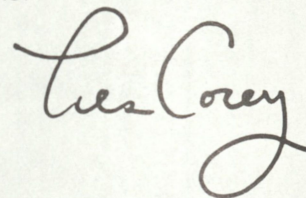
- **Secure enabling legislation for municipal land banking funded by a sustaining source of revenue.** This would give towns the option to enact a modest tax, paid at the time of real estate closing which would funnel into a separate fund for land acquisition. This fund could be used for the acquisition of local parks, agricultural lands, natural lands, aquifer zones, watershed lands, and other types of open space.

- **Provide adequate staffing in DEP's Land Acquisition and Management Unit.** Additional DEP staff people will be needed to help communities inventory and properly plan for their open space needs. DEP staff is also needed to administer the new Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program to achieve the State's goal of protecting an additional 100,000 acres by the year 2000.

The Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut believes that these programs, coupled with the commitment and cooperation of state and local government, private organizations, and citizens will guarantee a conservation legacy for future generations.

The Coalition is working to raise at least \$50,000 to wage a successful campaign during the 1988 legislative session. A professional lobbyist and a grassroots/media coordinator have been hired to help the Coalition reach out to every corner of the state. Any TNC member who is interested in participating in the Coalition's activities, especially contacting your local State Representative or State Senator is encouraged to contact the Coalition office at 118 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106 (phone: 549-1279). If you would like more information about the Coali-

tion or a copy of the Coalition's case statement, "Connecticut's Vanishing Landscape," please contact Les Corey. The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has committed substantial resources to this Coalition and we hope you will endorse and support our efforts. We haven't time to waste.



Les Corey, Chairman
Land Conservation Coalition
for Connecticut



Executive Director Les Corey and Director of Land Protection Carolie Evans presented a registry plaque to William B. Ellis, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Northeast Utilities, commending NU's voluntary protection of four locations in Connecticut thereby providing protection for four rare plants and one rare biological community.

NATURAL DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

On November 14, 1987, over 75 scientists from Connecticut and adjacent states attended the Natural Diversity Conference, sponsored by the Natural Resource Center of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and co-sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. The keynote speech by Dr. William Drury, entitled, "In Praise of Enlightened Intervention," introduced a day of interesting and informative presentations. Topics included controlled burning, definition of coastal barrier beaches, discussion of ice pockets in talus slopes, the status of coyotes and a proposal to reintroduce fishers, to name a few.

As in the past, attendees represented both the private and public sectors, educational institutions, interested independent researchers, and environmental groups. The opportunity to meet to discuss mutual concerns can result in a number of cooperative projects, improved communication and a feeling of rapport and comradeship among the many in Connecticut who share an interest in the state's natural resources.

—bpl

STANTON GIFT AT ROBBINS SWAMP

In November, the Connecticut Chapter received from Mrs. Francis (Louise) Stanton of Chicago, Illinois, over 100 acres of land in Robbins Swamp in Canaan, Connecticut. The donation consists of three parcels of wetlands located between the railroad and swamp brook containing portions of one of Connecticut's finest examples of a calcareous fen and seepage swamp.

Robbins Swamp is the largest inland wetland in Connecticut. It contains a significant diversity of habitats and harbors a number of rare plant species—Northern White Cedar, a sedge, False Melic Grass and Bur Oak.

Commenting on her gift of land to the Conservancy, Mrs. Stanton said, "I am delighted to donate this land, which I've always called The Great Swamp, to The Nature Conservancy to forever protect it along with the rare plants and animals living there." Mrs. Stanton added, "The Nature Conservancy was the first to approach me and I know both of my relatives from whom I inherited the land, Aunt Katherine Parsons and Lee Maltbie Dean of

Falls Village, would be very pleased by this gift to the Conservancy."

In accepting Mrs. Stanton's gift, Chapter Executive Director Les Corey said, "We are sincerely grateful for Mrs. Stanton's vision and generosity in making this important contribution which will aid in the preservation of one of Connecticut's most unique wetlands." He added, "Mrs. Stanton has taken an important step, and we hope others owning land in this area will follow her fine example in seeking some form of protection for the land." —cke



Robert Perron

To the right of the railroad right-of-way is Robbins Swamp (Canaan, Connecticut), the largest inland wetland in the state, over 100 acres of which were generously donated to the Conservancy in December by Mrs. Francis Parsons.

LAND GIFTS AND EASEMENT EXPAND PROTECTION AT STILL POND, IRON MOUNTAIN

The Chapter has received two significant gifts of land in addition to a conservation easement at the close of 1987. At Still Pond in Greenwich, the Chapter accepted a 1.2 acre gift from Mrs. Priscilla Meek. The gift property includes frontage on Meek's Pond as well as footpaths that are linked to the preserve's trail system. A conservation easement over a second parcel at Still Pond was given by John and Sandra Wilson. The easement property contains mature hardwood forest and is surrounded on three sides by the Still Pond Preserve. Both of these gifts will significantly help in protecting the integrity of the preserve.

At Iron Mountain, the Chapter was pleased to accept a seven-acre gift from Joseph Gitterman III. The gift property contains mixed hardwood forest and is bounded on two sides by the Conservancy's Iron Mountain Reservation. The Reservation was created by a gift of 257 acres from Mrs. Walter E. Irving in 1974. With the Gitterman gift, protection here now stands at 283 acres.

Said Executive Director Les Corey, "We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Meek, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Gitterman for their generosity and thoughtfulness in making these gifts, which will further protect two important Conservancy preserves."

—aez



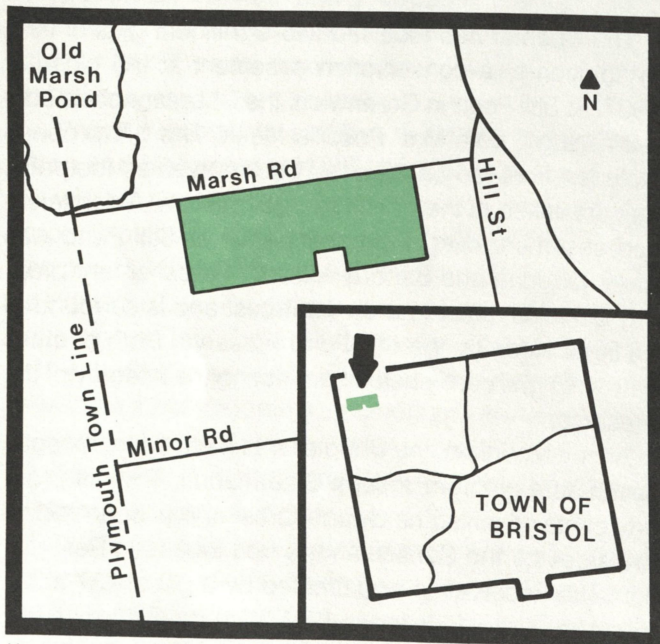
GENEROUS BEQUEST PROTECTS 87 ACRES IN BRISTOL

The Chapter is pleased to accept a significant gift of land in Bristol. The 87-acre property provides a diversity of habitats including open fields, brushy areas, and mature oak-hickory woodland. The gift tract was devised (donation of property through will) by the late Katharine Shepard. It is adjacent to undeveloped watershed property and provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including deer, fox, grouse, and numerous songbirds.

This latest addition to the Chapter's preserve portfolio will be leased to the Bristol Regional Environmental Center as is the Conservancy's nearby Barnes Preserve. Center Director Jon Guglietta remarks that "protection of this property is a significant step forward in the wake of all the development that has been going on in the area." With the number of natural areas dwindling throughout the state, it is indeed fortunate that individuals such as Miss Shepard are willing to protect their property.

A bequest or devise to the Conservancy is a living legacy, protecting significant natural areas—and the plant and animal life that depends on them—for future generations. Bequests directed for specific use in Connecticut benefit our efforts state-wide. Further information on bequests or other forms of planned giving may be obtained by contacting the Chapter's Executive Director, Les Corey (344-0716) or Channing Page, Planned Giving Officer at our Boston office (617/338-2103). Inquiries, as always, are held in strict confidence.

—aez



Map by David Casagrande

CONTRACTOR NEEDED

The Chapter needs an insured contractor who is able to demolish a one-and-a-half story stone building in the Middletown area. A donation of labor is preferred. If you are interested, please call Andy Zepp at 344-0716.

4

WILL POWER

Through your will, you have the power to determine how your estate will be distributed; if you do not have a will, the State decides. Yet almost 80 percent of all Americans die without a will.

Through a will, you can provide properly for your family and others you love. You can also perpetuate the work of The Nature Conservancy and other charitable organizations you strongly believe in. A bequest to the Conservancy is a living legacy, protecting significant natural areas—and the plant and animal life that depends on them—for future generations.

For information in full confidence about including a bequest to The Nature Conservancy in your will, or for sample bequest language for review by you and your attorney, please contact: Leslie N. Corey, Jr., Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

—dlr

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MONITORING

Volunteers are needed in both Canaan and the Durham-Guilford area to monitor and maintain Conservancy preserves. If interested, please drop a note to Andy Zepp at the Chapter Office.

—aez

HANDLER MEMORIAL FUND AIDS PURCHASE OF KEY TRACT

The Conservancy's Seymour Handler Memorial Fund, established with a generous gift from an anonymous donor, has donated \$10,000 to the Woodbridge Conservation Trust towards the purchase of the McKiernan tract on the Litchfield Turnpike in Woodbridge. The property cost \$115,000.

The six-acre tract, on which the Conservancy has a reverter interest, is located in the West River Valley through which the Litchfield Turnpike runs. It has for many years been considered one of the prime natural landmarks of Woodbridge.

CHAPTER ACCEPTS REVERTER

Thomas A. Gaines, a former Chairman of the Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter, recently purchased 96 acres of woodland and fields in the town of Canterbury. Before reselling the land, Mr. Gaines placed a conservation restriction on the property stating that the property shall not be subdivided or re-subdivided. The Wyndham Land Trust is holding the restriction. In the event that the Wyndham Land Trust ceases to function as a land conservation organization, the restriction will revert to The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC applauds Mr. Gaines' efforts to protect open space land.

—cke

CHAPTER'S NEW ACORNS – 1988

A member becomes an Acorn by donating \$100 or more annually to Chapter operations. This level of support is vital to sustaining the growing land preservation challenges facing the Connecticut Chapter. Our thanks go to the following who joined as Acorns in 1988 and to those generous Acorns who renewed or upgraded their support in 1988. The number of Connecticut Acorns increased by 12 percent this past year to 673.

Ansonia Foundation, Inc.
Mrs. William Armstrong
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney G. Arno
Mr. Donald F. Aughter
Mr. Stanley M. Babson
Ms. Elva A. Bacon
Mr. Arthur B. Baer
Mr. John Barney
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barry
Mr. George F. Baskin
Rev. H. Osgood Bennett
Mr. Paul J. Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Bennett
Mr. Blair F. Bertaccini
Mr. James A. Bertelson
Dr. Kenneth Berv
Mr. & Mrs. A.E. Billings, Jr.
Mr. Kurt Bissell
Mr. Joseph Blumenthal
Ms. Anita Louise Bourque
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Bove
Mr. David S. Branch
Ms. Jane A. Brennan
Ms. MaryAnn Brooke
Mr. Scott A. Brooks
Mr. Sanford Brown
Ms. Frederica B. Burrall
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart D. Burt
Mrs. C. Bush
Mr. George J. Bussmann, Jr.
Dr. Milton F. Campbell
Ms. Mary L. Canning
Ms. Elizabeth Caraballo
Mrs. D. Bret Carlson
Mrs. Maryette Casalone
Mrs. Frank H. Chappell, Jr.
Ms. Jean C. Childress
Mr. E. Ronald Coffman
Mr. Ira Gordon Colby III
Mr. Ferdinand W. Coudert
Mrs. Roberta Coughlin
Mrs. Roderic Cross
Mr. Salvatore S. D'Alessandro
Ms. Barbara O. David
Mr. and Mrs. Norman T. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Decker
Mr. M. Desmond
Ms. Carol Dicks
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Dobeck
Ms. Charlotte Donovan
Mr. Samuel R. Dorrance
Mr. Peter W. Duble
Mr. Stanley C. Eisenstat
Mr. Michael Erlanger
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ertel
Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Evans
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Everitt
Ms. Sarah Faulkner
Dr. Eleanor Faye
Mr. Marshall S. Feingold
Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Fox
Mr. Gregory Gardner
Ms. Elise J. Garvin
Mr. Alexander Gaston
Miss Mildred Geriak
Mr. and Mrs. Maxfield S. Gibbons
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Gillespie
Mr. Lawrence J. Golden
Mrs. Milton Goss
Mrs. Wilder J. Greeley
Mrs. Greenaway
Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Greenfield
Mr. Robert H. Hamilton
Mr. Bruce Hampson
Mrs. Henry W. Hart
Mr. C. Keith Hartley
Ms. Susan L. Herron
Mr. Shelton Hicock
Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Hoffman
Ms. Judith Honorowski
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hook
Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Hopkins
Ms. Emily Hopson
Mr. S.G. House

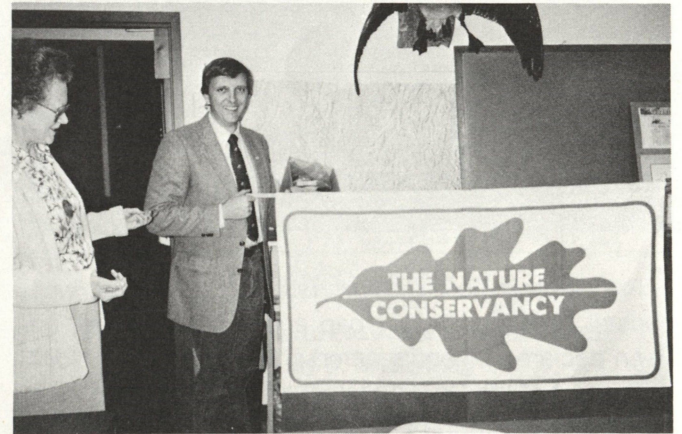
Miss Penelope Howell-Heller
Mrs. James K. Hubbell
Ms. Connie Huebner
Mrs. Elizabeth H. Huffine
Mr. Gregory W. Hutchins
Mr. John S. Jachna
Mr. Erik P. Jensen
Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Jewett
Mr. Dean A. Johnson
Mrs. George K. Johnson
Mr. Raymond A. Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Jones
Dr. Jean F. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Keane
Mr. Norman Kennedy
Dr. Sidney R. Kennedy, Jr.
Ms. Charlotte Kidwell
Mrs. F.G. Kingsley
Kiwanis Club of Wilton, Inc.
Mr. L. von Kleydorff
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Koleszar
Mr. and Mrs. Keith L. Knowlton
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kremer
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kruger
Mr. David LaBella
Mr. John Labieniec
Mr. Michael Laddin
Mr. and Mrs. J.W. LaFlamme
Mr. John LaFleur
Mr. Richard B. Larson
Mr. Lindsay Law
Ms. Doreen B. Lee
Mr. David Leff
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lewis
Mrs. Ann Jones Light
Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Link
Mrs. Ruth Lord
Mr. and Mrs. David Lovejoy
Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay A. Lovejoy
Mrs. George G. Loveless
Mrs. Rob Roy MacGregor
Mr. Paul Maidment
Mr. John P. Maloney
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mangliani
Mr. John S. Marshall
Mr. Crozer Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Martin
Ms. Jayne Mauborgne
Ms. Jean McCrum
Ms. Emily A. B. McKay
Mr. Henry K. Metcalf
Mrs. Mary S. Meyer
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas F. Miller
Mr. David S. Moelling
Mrs. Eugene M. Moore
Mrs. Newhold Morris
Ms. Diantha Morse
Drs. Earl and Margaret Mummert
Mrs. Royal E. Mygatt
Mrs. W.E. Nordstrom
Mrs. Robert S. Ogden
Mr. Nicholas D. Ohly
Mr. Robert G. Olmsted
Ms. Lauren Olshesky
Ms. Sarah L. Osgood
Mr. and Mrs. Halford W. Park, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Noel M. Pease
Mr. and Mrs. Jay W. Pershing
Mrs. Eleanor R. Peterson
Ms. Kathryn L. Pitz
Mrs. A. L. Polley
Mr. Orville W. Prescott, Jr.
Dr. Sally Provence
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Putnam
R and CB Foundation
Ms. Carol & Amy Redfield
Ms. Vicki Reed
Mr. Anthony Rinella
Mrs. Rona Roberts
Mrs. Lucille Rogers
Dr. Gilbert R. Rowan
Ms. Cheryl Rutz
Mrs. Ella B. Ryder
Miss Anne L. Sargent

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Sargent
Ms. Joan-Marie Schaefer
Mr. and Mrs. Boynton M. Schmitt
Mrs. Salvatrice Schultze
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Sease
Ms. Marianne G. Seggerman
Mr. Cornelius J. Shea
Mr. Robert W. Skowronek
Dr. Clifford L. Slayman
Mrs. Lillian M. Sorvall
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Mrs. Nancy Williams
Mrs. Donald L. Wilson
Mrs. Donald Wing
Ms. Enid S. Winslow
Ms. Helen C. Winter
Mrs. Alan Wortley
Mr. Samuel Zahl

We have made every effort to make the above list of new Acorns accurate, but if there are errors or omissions, we would welcome hearing from you. We are sorry that space does not allow us to list every Connecticut Acorn.

—pwr/lo



A five-foot green and white Nature Conservancy banner was presented to Connecticut Chapter Director Les Corey (right) by the Glastonbury Sub-Chapter of TNC at a recent meeting. The Sub-Chapter's Chairman, Alexis Hook (left), made the presentation.

REPORT ON LAND TRUST CONVOCATION

The fifth annual Land Trust Convocation held Saturday, November 7, 1987, at the University of Hartford was enthusiastically received by the 215 people who attended the day-long affair. The 20 volunteer speakers presented eight outstanding seminars on topics such as "Influencing Land Use and Land Preservation," "Land Management," "Tax Laws," "Tax Issues Involved in Operating a Trust," and "Conservation Easements." Gordon Abbott gave a stimulating talk on "Challenges and Opportunities for Land Trusts."

Carole Evans, Director of the Land Trust Service Bureau, noted that 53 of the Connecticut land trusts were represented along with 11 out-of-state land trusts. The Convocation is now a well-established annual event that is eagerly anticipated by the land trust community. The Convocation gives the land trust volunteers and staff an opportunity to get together with peers to exchange ideas, information, and lessons learned plus a chance to renew one's enthusiasm and sense of commitment.

—cke



Geoffrey Hammerson

The Roseate Tern gets its name from the faint rosy tint on its breast feathers. A recovery team of specialists will be named in the near future to plan the management, protection, and research actions needed to try to restore the species.

ROSEATE TERN DECLARED ENDANGERED IN NORTHEAST

The Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*), a slender, white coastal bird with a black cap and long forked tail, has been declared an endangered species along the Northeast coast of the United States, and is threatened in the Florida Keys and the Caribbean. Strong fliers that feed mainly on small fish which they catch by plunging head-first into the water, Roseate Terns nest on the ground on small islands. In late summer, the birds gather in flocks and migrate long distances to wintering areas in the coastal waters off South America from Colombia to eastern Brazil. They return to the Northeast to nest in mid-May, usually among large colonies of their close relative, the Common Tern.

This graceful bird was nearly eliminated from its range in the United States by plume-hunters in the late 19th century but recovered with protective laws to about 8,500 pairs in the 1930's. In recent years, however, fewer than 3,000 pairs have nested at only a few sites in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and New York.

The primary cause for their decline is competition and predation by expanding populations of large, aggressive gulls, causing the terns to abandon nearly half of their former nesting sites. Other factors include human disturbance and development, predation, and the trapping and netting of wintering terns for food along the northeastern coast of South America. Listing under the Endangered Species Act will provide additional protection and conservation measures for the Roseate Tern by Federal, State and local governments, private agencies, groups, and individuals.

—bpl

CHAPTER GIVEN USFWS AWARD FOR RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is the recipient of a certificate of appreciation from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in recognition of the Conservancy's many contributions to the protection, management, and important research on the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge includes Chimon Island, Sheffield Island, Milford Point and Falkner Island within the towns of Norwalk, Milford and Guilford. This is believed to be the first stewardship award from the federal government to The Nature Conservancy.

Through the Conservancy's Small Grant Program, Jeffrey Spendelow, a USFWS researcher, conducted his ninth field year studying Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougallii*) on Falkner Island. This research, combined with other information, led to the listing of the Roseate Tern on the federally endangered list in the Northeast in 1987. Since 1986, research on Falkner Island has been coordinated by the USFWS, TNC, Connecticut Audubon Society, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and Little Harbor Laboratory. The Conservancy also managed funds available through these groups for the research on Falkner Island.

At Milford Point, the Conservancy provided signs and seasonal wardens for two years, in a cooperative effort with the USFWS to manage the human impact on the nesting Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) and Least Terns (*Sterna antillarum*). Piping Plovers are listed with the USFWS as a threatened species in the Northeast.

—bpl



Hugh Smith

In a ceremony at the Connecticut Audubon Society, the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (CT/TNC) received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in recognition of its achievements in research and management at the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. Present were Jeffrey A. Spendelow, researcher, USFWS; Beth P. Lapin, Director of Science and Stewardship, CT/TNC; Leslie N. Corey, Jr., Executive Director, CT/TNC; Frank Dunkle, Director, USFWS; Sarah Richards, President, Little Harbor Laboratory; Betsy Fowler, Treasurer, Little Harbor Laboratory.



Paul McGuirk

Trustee Alexander Gardner (left) presented Lucie McKinney with the official Nature Conservancy Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge commemorative poster, as Congressman Christopher Shays (second from left) and Congressman Bruce Morrison assisted.

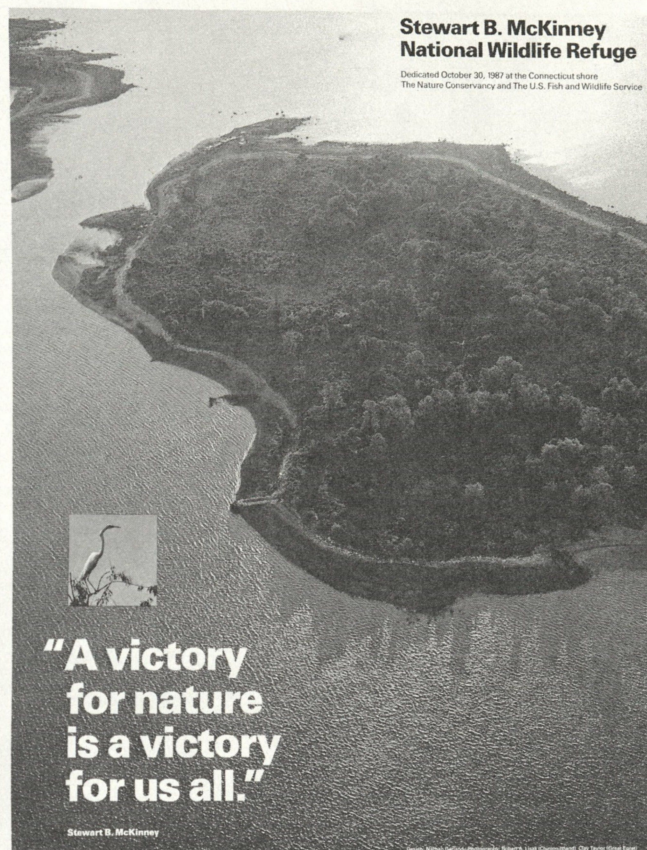


Paul McGuirk

Standing in front of a bronze memorial plaque presented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are Leslie N. Corey, Jr., Executive Director, TNC; Frank Dunkle, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Congresswoman Nancy Johnson; Mrs. Stewart B. (Lucie) McKinney; and Congressmen Christopher Shays and Bruce Morrison. The plaque, which will be placed on Chimon Island, contains Stewart McKinney's words: "A victory for nature is a victory for us all."

HELP NEEDED FOR GRISWOLD POINT WORK PARTY

Saturday, March 26: **Griswold Point Work Party.** To help protect the nesting terns and plovers, the Conservancy will again erect seasonal fence around a section of Griswold Point in Old Lyme. To do this, we need the assistance of a number of volunteers to dig post holes in the sand, string fence, and secure it. Will you join us? We will meet at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine, to begin erecting the fence. If you are interested in helping, please drop a card by March to: Griswold Point Work Party, The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457. We will send you details and a map in mid-March. —aez



Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

Dedicated October 30, 1987 at the Connecticut shore
The Nature Conservancy and The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**"A victory
for nature
is a victory
for us all."**

Stewart B. McKinney

ORDER FORM

"A Victory For Nature Is A Victory For Us All"
Stewart B. McKinney

To order the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge commemorative poster, please complete the form below and send your check to:

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter
55 High Street
Middletown, CT 06457

Name _____

Address _____

Send Me _____ (# of posters)

Cost is \$3.00 for one, \$2.50 each for two to four, and \$2.00 each for five or more.

Please allow three to four weeks for delivery. This handsome poster, pictured above, is in full color and a standard size (11" by 14") for easy framing. —dlr

CORRECT NUMBER TO CALL TO VIEW EAGLES

In our last newsletter, we notified members that it was necessary to obtain a permit to visit the Shepaug Eagle Winter Observation Site, but regrettably printed an incorrect phone number. The correct number to call to obtain a permit is: (203) 566-7195. —pwr



Geoffrey Hammerson

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The primary cause for their decline is competition and predation by expanding populations of large, aggressive gulls, causing the terns to abandon nearly half of their former nesting sites. Other factors include human disturbance and development, predation, and the trapping and netting of wintering terns for food along the northeastern coast of South America. Listing under the Endangered Species Act will provide additional protection and conservation measures for the Roseate Tern by Federal, State and local governments, private agencies, groups, and individuals.

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—bpl



Hugh Smith

In a ceremony at the Connecticut Audubon Society, the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (CT/TNC) received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in recognition of its achievements in research and management at the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. Present were Jeffrey A. Spendelow, researcher, USFWS; Beth P. Lapin, Director of Science and Stewardship, CT/TNC; Leslie N. Corey, Jr., Executive Director, CT/TNC; Frank Dunkle, Director, USFWS; Sarah Richards, President, Little Harbor Laboratory; Betsy Fowler, Treasurer, Little Harbor Laboratory.



Paul McGuirk

Trustee Alexander Gardner (left) presented Lucie McKinney with the official Nature Conservancy Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge commemorative poster, as Congressman Christopher Shays (second from left) and Congressman Bruce Morrison assisted.

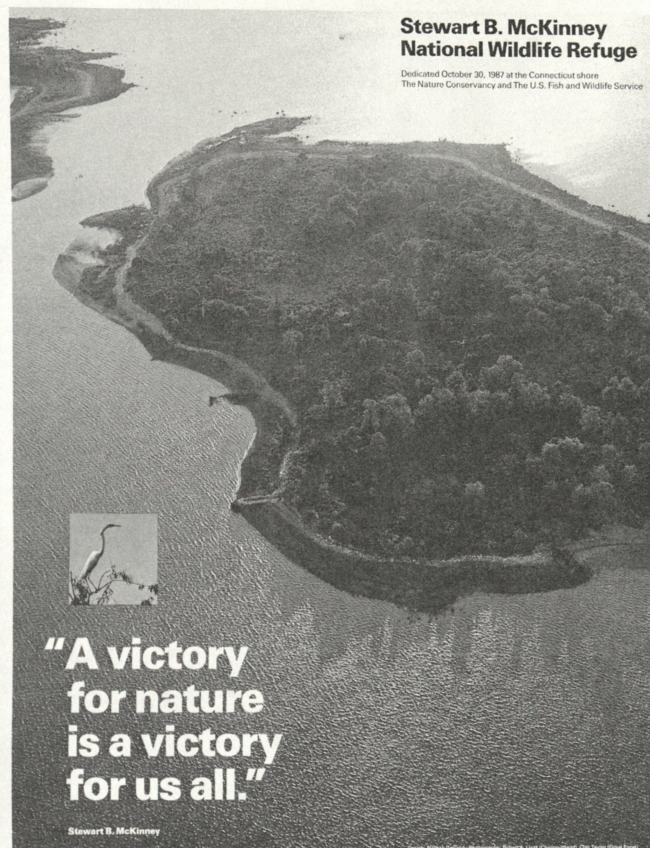


Paul McGuirk

Standing in front of a bronze memorial plaque presented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are Leslie N. Corey, Jr., Executive Director, TNC; Frank Dunkle, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Congresswoman Nancy Johnson; Mrs. Stewart B. (Lucie) McKinney; and Congressmen Christopher Shays and Bruce Morrison. The plaque, which will be placed on Chimon Island, contains Stewart McKinney's words: "A victory for nature is a victory for us all."

HELP NEEDED FOR GRISWOLD POINT WORK PARTY

Saturday, March 26: **Griswold Point Work Party.** To help protect the nesting terns and plovers, the Conservancy will again erect seasonal fence around a section of Griswold Point in Old Lyme. To do this, we need the assistance of a number of volunteers to dig post holes in the sand, string fence, and secure it. Will you join us? We will meet at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine, to begin erecting the fence. If you are interested in helping, please drop a card by March to: Griswold Point Work Party, The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457. We will send you details and a map in mid-March. —aez



ORDER FORM

"A Victory For Nature Is A Victory For Us All"
Stewart B. McKinney

To order the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge commemorative poster, please complete the form below and send your check to:

The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter
55 High Street
Middletown, CT 06457

Name _____

Address _____

Send Me _____ (# of posters)

Cost is \$3.00 for one, \$2.50 each for two to four, and \$2.00 each for five or more.

Please allow three to four weeks for delivery. This handsome poster, pictured above, is in full color and a standard size (11" by 14") for easy framing. —dlr

CORRECT NUMBER TO CALL TO VIEW EAGLES

In our last newsletter, we notified members that it was necessary to obtain a permit to visit the Shepaug Eagle Winter Observation Site, but regrettably printed an incorrect phone number. The correct number to call to obtain a permit is: (203) 566-7195. —pwr

CHAPTER LOSES A GREAT FRIEND

The Connecticut Chapter was deeply saddened to learn that Alden Taylor passed away on February 8th, following a prolonged illness.

A long-time and loyal friend of The Nature Conservancy, Alden was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut Chapter from 1975 to 1978, guiding the Chapter through an important developmental period. Upon his retirement from the Board in 1983, he was honored by the Chapter staff and trustees with the title *Trustee Emeritus* and a Certificate of Special Recognition.

Alden's support of The Nature Conservancy was constant, his leadership invaluable, and his volunteer talents as editor-writer-designer considerable.

Prior to joining the Chapter Board, Alden was an executive with Phoenix Insurance Company and The Travelers. He is survived by his wife, Janet, and five children. His family has requested that instead of flowers, donations be made to The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter.

Chairman Peter Cooper said of Alden that, "He was a lovely person who really helped start moving the Connecticut Chapter into the professional organization it is today. I can think of nothing more fitting than to honor his service by a memorial contribution to the organization he so believed in."

CHAPTER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Volunteers: Shorebird monitoring in West Haven and Stratford.

Interns: Wardens, preserve design.

Permanent positions: Stewardship Assistant, Assistant Director of Land Protection.

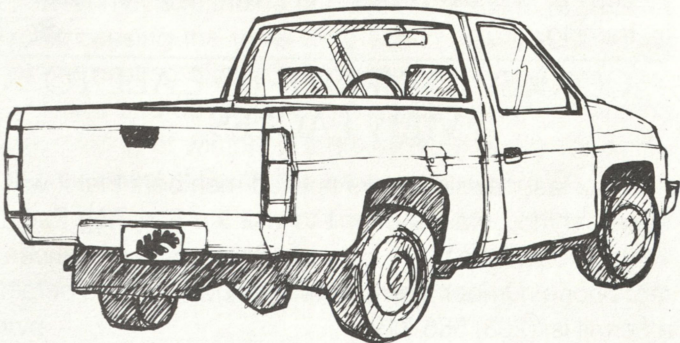
If you are interested in receiving a description of any of the above positions, send your name, address, and position(s) of interest to The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457, and you will be sent more details.

—bpl

TRUCK NEEDED

The Chapter is in need of a late model pickup truck for use in managing our preserves in Connecticut. If you have a late model truck in good condition that you would like to donate, please drop a note to Andy Zepp, The Nature Conservancy, 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

—aez



The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the full array of biological diversity by finding, protecting, and maintaining the best examples of communities, ecosystems, and endangered species in our natural world.



From the Land

Winter/1988

Published for the members of
the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

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The Nature Conservancy's



A rare opportunity to preserve natural areas for future generations—before it is too late

\$10 Million, Four-State Effort Aims At 100 Critical Sites

The Indians called it *Quinnnetukut*, the long tidal river. Timothy Dwight, a well-traveled early president of Yale, went there one better. He declared it the most beautiful river in the world.

In addition to its undeniable beauty, the Connecticut River has long been the backbone of New England. Its rich forests and fertile flood plains gave birth to the region's economy; its broad waters became the major artery for transportation and logging drives; its power drove the mills of the Industrial Revolution and built many of New England's thriving towns.

Until massive recent efforts to clean it up, the Connecticut was also known as the prettiest sewer in America. That, fortunately, has changed, but there are still urgent goals to be met before the clock runs out.

The region's longest and largest watercourse, draining a basin of 11,085 square miles, the river rises in a few lonely, picturesque ponds near the Canadian border, where moose graze on lily-pads and the song of the loon echoes from the hills. It curves westward briefly through northern New Hampshire and Vermont, then, gathering momentum, plunges south toward its destination over 400 miles away.

Fed by 23 major tributaries—most of them short, swift streams cascading through narrow mountain valleys—it flows past dark woods and sunny meadows, over rapids where eagles swoop to fish, through tidal marshes teeming with marine life and a million birds. Finally, it broadens into a majestic, mile-wide estuary to meet Long Island Sound. Here, it has long been blessed by a fluke of nature: a great sandbar that so impeded shipping no significant industrial development has ever occurred. One of the reasons the Connecticut is so beautiful, indeed, is that it is the only major river in the United States without a city at its mouth.

In recent decades the Connecticut has been recognized as something even more vital—the ecological thread that ties New England together. It is a river as rich in its natural heritage as it is in human history.

The Nature Conservancy, a national, non-profit organization pledged to saving land and wildlife, has embarked on a bold new effort: a \$10 million, five-year program to protect no less than 100 critical natural areas along the river and its environs, all the way from source to sea. This undertaking, which transcends political boundaries, is a cooperative venture of state Conservancy programs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, in conjunction with other conservation groups.

The goal is to protect permanently, through gifts, acquisitions or conservation agreements, the best of the river's remaining pristine sites, living fragments of the forests and wetlands our ancestors marveled at more than three centuries ago.

These areas are key elements of the river's magnificent scenery, places where people can walk, canoe, fish, or just be by themselves in communion with the land. More importantly, they are fragile islands of refuge for many of New

England's most endangered animals and plants.

The effort will not be easy. Almost daily, development pressures are unalterably changing the river's landscape. In its more than 30 years of existence, however, The Nature Conservancy has acquired the skills to pinpoint priorities and the ability to work with others realistically to get the job done.

We believe that the results of the Connecticut River Program will be tangible, enduring—and of priceless value to generations to come.

We invite all New Englanders to join us in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



"The Connecticut River is the Ecological thread that ties New England together."

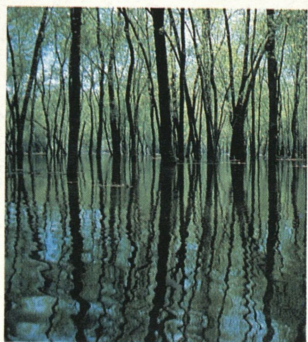
—Dennis Wolkoff
Vice President Eastern Region,
The Nature Conservancy

Osprey

"Here's our chance to save, for our children and grandchildren, a truly significant part of their disappearing natural heritage."

—Alexander Gardner
Chairman,
Connecticut River
Protection Program

Floodplain Forest



Ruth Bergengren

◀ *Green Dragon, an uncommon plant, grows in the floodplain forests*

Habitats Earmarked For Protection

The Connecticut River Protection Program will preserve, and permanently care for, over 100 of the river's unique and threatened natural communities, some of which are indicated on the accompanying map.

To establish priorities objectively, The Nature Conservancy relies on detailed, computerized inventories called Natural Heritage Programs in each of the four participating states. These permit the rating of natural areas and the selection of preserves on scientific principles, not whim.

The program aims primarily at natural communities that still possess enough biological integrity to maintain themselves as functioning systems well into the future. The most important types include:

◀ **Floodplain Forests**—These woods, which do much to preserve the wild character of the river margins, form dense canopies that host nesting Cerulean Warblers in summer, roosting Bald Eagles in winter. Underfoot grow Ostrich Fern, Green Dragon and other uncommon plants.

◀ Tidal and Freshwater

Marshes—Biologists cite fresh and salt-water marshes as the most productive natural systems in the world. They provide the nurseries for many species of fish, shellfish and birds including Eagles and Ospreys. Farther upriver, freshwater marshes rival the tidal marshes in biological richness and diversity.

◀ **Riverside Seeps, Outcrops, and Grasslands**—Along banks and bars are areas of gravel, sand and rocks kept moist by seeping groundwater. On them grow dazzling displays of wild flowers and, surprisingly, communities of plants that resemble the prairies of the Midwest. Here, too, can be seen some of the rarest plants in New England, including Jesup's Milkvetch—a species found in only three places in the world.

◀ Acidic Peatlands (Bogs)

—Fascinating relics of the ice ages, bogs are cool and acidic enough to harbor plants usually found much farther north, including dainty Rose Pogonia orchids, insect-eating Sundews and Pitcher Plants, Tamarack, Sweet Gale and Leatherleaf.

◀ **Calcareous Wetlands**—Rich in calcium, dominated by sedges, these small and dwindling areas are incredibly diverse in species, including a variety of rare orchids—Showy Ladyslipper, Small Yellow Ladyslipper, Loesel's Twayblade and Shining Lady's Tresses.

◀ **Old-Growth Forests**—Huge old Sugar Maples, White Pines and Basswoods rise on a few undisturbed slopes above the river, which are also home to ferns, rare Ladyslipper orchids and the magnificent Pileated Woodpecker.

◀ **Steep, Rocky Cliffs**—Cut by the river as it slowly changed course, these cliffs support plants adapted to an exposed, harsh environment, including Slender Cliff-brake and Yellow Corydalis. Some of the cliffs provide nesting sites for Peregrine Falcons.

◀ **Pine/Oak Barrens**—Broad, sandy deposits left by retreating glaciers are inhospitable to all but hardy plants like Pitch Pine, Scrub Oak, Little Bluestem grass and various heaths, which also attract many rare moths. Few such areas are left.

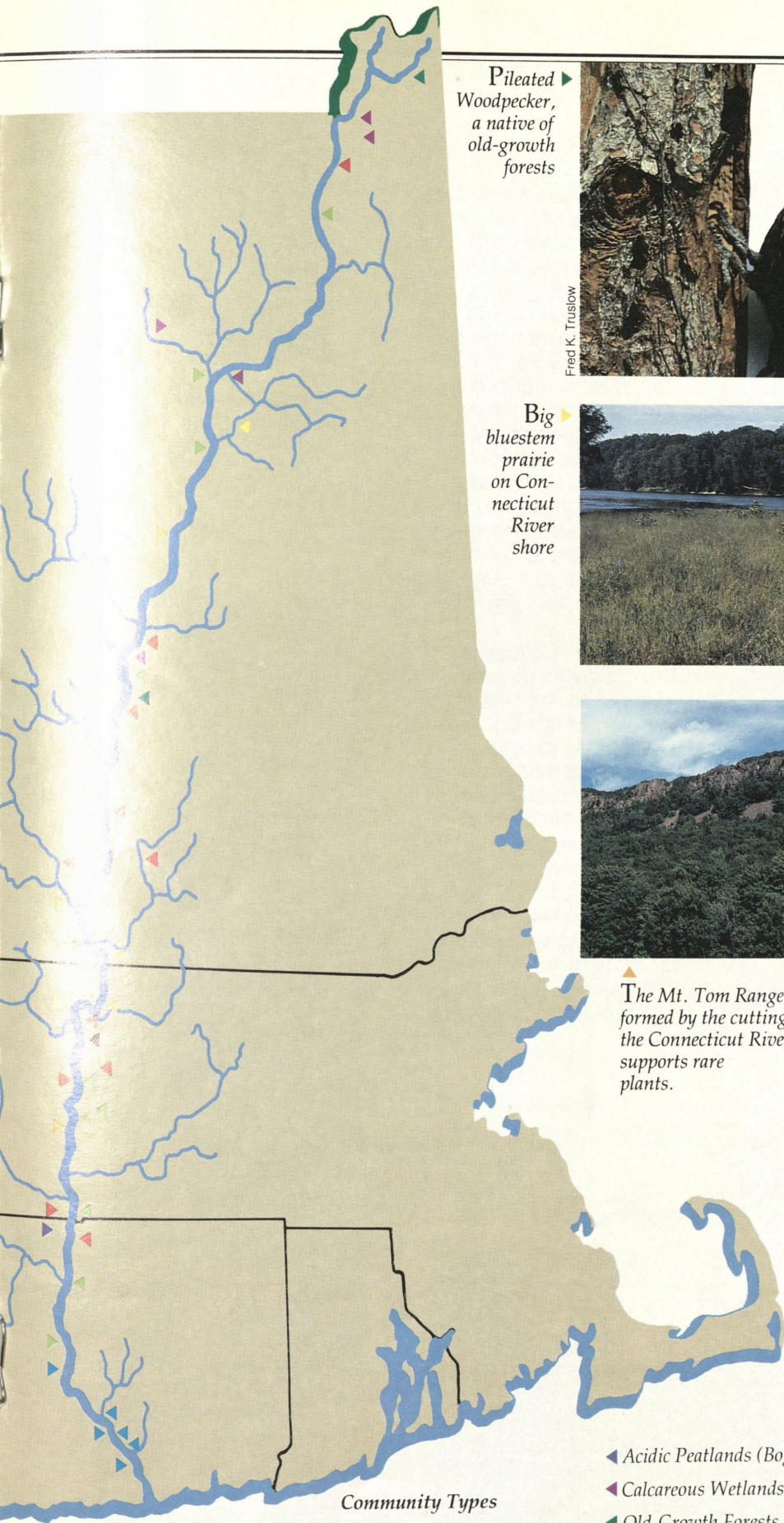
◀ **And More Birds.** Many types of wildlife depend on the Connecticut River, none more so than the many kinds of birds found there. Among the more notable species that delight birdwatchers are the endangered Piping Plover and Least Tern, the Bald Eagle, Osprey, American and Least Bitterns, King and Sora Rails, Common Moorhen and Northern Harrier. Saving their habitats can ensure their survival—and our enjoyment of them for a long time to come.

Least Bittern,
a marsh resident



Bruce Sorrie

Sites E
(not a



◀ **Pileated Woodpecker**, a native of old-growth forests

Fred K. Truslow



▶ **Big bluestem prairie** on Connecticut River shore



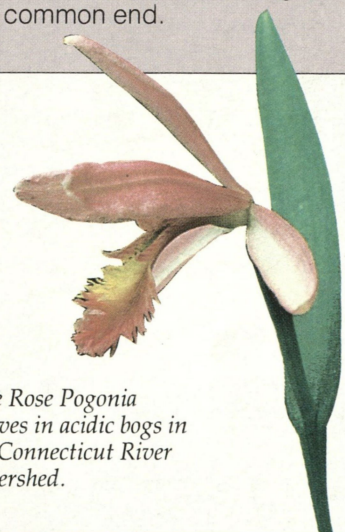
▲ The Mt. Tom Range, formed by the cutting of the Connecticut River, supports rare plants.

\$10 Million Needed—To Save \$40 Million Worth Of Land

The Connecticut River Protection Program seeks to raise \$10.3 million, which will be used to acquire a minimum of 7,000 acres along the river and its environs. These lands have an estimated market value of \$40 million, but through gifts, bargain sales and cooperative agreements, The Nature Conservancy hopes to acquire them for much less. We will not attempt to do the job alone, but will forge strong working partnerships with local and state governments, other conservation groups, and private landowners. That way, each dollar contributed can be leveraged to many times its value in protected land.

The Program is already being supported by contributions from individual Conservancy members, from corporations and foundations, from bequests and other gifts of cash, securities and real estate, including land and buildings donated to the Conservancy for resale.

The Nature Conservancy is unique in that it protects land, not by advocacy or public regulation, but by voluntary private action through willing donors and sellers working toward a common end.



Mike Hopiak

▶ The Rose Pogonia thrives in acidic bogs in the Connecticut River watershed.

Community Types

- ◀ Floodplain Forests
- ◀ Tidal and Freshwater Marshes
- ◀ Riverside Seeps, Outcrops, and Grasslands

- ◀ Acidic Peatlands (Bogs)
- ◀ Calcareous Wetlands
- ◀ Old-Growth Forests
- ◀ Steep, Rocky Cliffs
- ◀ Pine/Oak Barrens
- ◀ Rare Species

Five Year Program Budget

Land Protection	\$ 6,250,000
Permanent Revolving Fund (for Land Protection)	2,000,000
Permanent Stewardship Fund	1,375,000
Science	250,000
Program Administration	500,000
Total Five-Year Budget	\$10,375,000

Earmarked For Preservation
(All are shown due to space limitations)

First Acquisitions

The Nature Conservancy has preserved more than 600 different areas in New England since the early 1950's. The first specifically saved under the new Connecticut

River Program are vital tracts of land in all four states: the 101-acre

Selden Creek Preserve, a beautiful tidal marsh in Lyme, Connecticut; Norton Pool, a pristine, 400-acre bog and virgin spruce forest in New Hampshire; Hart Island, a habitat for rare Cobblestone Tiger Beetles in the river between New Hampshire and Vermont; and the first tract at Stacy Mountain in Massachusetts, an area of spectacular forests and cliffs and the home of six rare animals and plants.

Selden Creek is one of the most biologically significant, undisturbed freshwater tidal marshes in the river's estuary, providing habitat for a number of rare plants and animals and feeding areas for waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and rails. Above the marshes are wooded cliffs that provide dramatic vistas of the river valley—and winter roosting areas for Bald Eagles. Protection was accomplished through the Conservancy's purchase of 55 acres; an additional 46 acres has been permanently preserved by a conservation easement signed with the owner of the land.

Norton Pool—the sole remain-

ing lowland virgin forest in New Hampshire, and the only one containing White Spruce—has been donated to the Conservancy by the Champion International Corporation. First intensively logged in 1898, much of the area's original timber had been cut by 1941, when Fred Cowan was hired to manage the area for the St. Regis Paper Company, Champion's predecessor.

After each season of cutting, the huge trees became more and more conspicuous, and Cowan was determined to save them. "Each year we'd look at the cutting maps and someone would say, 'When are you going to cut those?'" he recalls. "And I'd say, 'Aw, we can get those anytime; let's go on by them this year.'"

When Dartmouth College surveyed the outstanding natural areas of New Hampshire, the importance of Norton Pool was brought to the attention of company executives, who drew up a plan that would spare it from cutting. Their subsequent donation of 440 acres to The Nature Conservancy marks a quarter century of effort by New Hampshire conservation groups.

Selden Creek and Norton Pool are among the first tangible results of the Connecticut River Protection Program. Significant as they are, they only hint at accomplishments still to come.



▲
Short-nosed
Sturgeon



▲
The threatened American
Bald Eagle is found in
isolated sites along the length
of the Connecticut River.

For Further Information

Gifts are needed from individuals, foundations, and corporations and may be made in the form of cash, securities, or property. For further information about your tax-deductible gift, please contact one of The Nature Conservancy offices listed below.

Connecticut Chapter

55 High Street
Middletown, CT 06457
(203) 344-0716

Massachusetts/Rhode Island Field Office

294 Washington Street
Room 740
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 423-2545

New Hampshire Field Office

7 South State Street, Suite 1
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-5853

Vermont Field Office

138 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 229-4425

Eastern Regional Office

294 Washington Street
Room 740
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 542-1908



▼
Selden Creek
Lyme, Connecticut



▼
Norton Pool
Pittsburg, New Hampshire

